

Serial No.: 10/806,620
Art Unit: 2188

REMARKS

Claims 13-28 are currently pending. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted with this response. As this Information Disclosure Statement corresponds to a Japanese search report dated May 16, 2006, and is being filed after the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits but before the mailing date of any of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, Applicant states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement

Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to continue the prosecution of the rejected claims to allowance.

As the only currently pending claims are claims 13-28, which were allowed in the Office Action dated May 11, 2006, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Surugucchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,687,765, in view of the Background of the Invention, or alternatively, Carlson, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0135609, and to allow all of the pending claims 13-28 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 13-28 is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted:

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date Name of Person Making Deposit